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NOV 20 2006 Serial No. 09/505,775

REMARKS

**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-26 have been pending in the application.

Claims 5, 9, 15 and 18-22 are allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 16, 17, and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Limb in view of Tateyama (US006018816A).

Claims 3, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Limb in view of Tateyama further in view of Perlman (US 5,398,242).

Claims 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Limb in view of Tateyama further in view of Ching et al. (US 4,665,514).

According to the foregoing, claims 14 and 17 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice, the claims are amended, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

**REJECTIONS**

The rejected independent claims are 1, 10, 12, 13, 16, 23 and 24. According to the foregoing, Applicants amend independent claims 1, 10, 12, 13, 16, 23, and 24 to recite the following patentably distinguishing features (1)-(3):

(1) The identification circuit (18) of a node checks a packet identifier (29) in a writing packet received from an upstream node (FIGS. 5 and 7);

(2) The node is configured to store data in the write packet in accordance with the checking result of the packet identifier; and

(3) The node is configured to replace data stored in the data portion of the write packet with another data to be addressed to a downstream node.

Support for the foregoing claim amendments can be found, for example, at paragraphs starting from the bottom line of page 9 to page 10, line 20 and paragraphs starting from page 11, line 3 to page 13, line 4; and page 21, line 9 to page 22, line 25, of the specification.

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According to the amended claims, a node is configured to replace data stored in a writing packet with another data. Since said another data can be stored in the writing packet at the node, even if the writing packet is not empty, as a benefit, the writing packet that is not empty can carry said another data to a downstream node. This improves data transfer efficiency.

Limb (USP5111456) does not disclose or suggest a node that replaces data stored in a writing packet with another data to be addressed to a downstream node. Rather, Limb discloses a node that writes data in an empty packet.

Tateyama (USP6018816) shows a node including a physical layer 811, a link layer 812, a transaction layer 814, a management layer 815, and an application layer 816 (Fig. 2). However, Tateyama fails to disclose, or suggest to one skilled in the art to be modified to achieve, (1) the claimed a packet identifier arranged at a data portion of a writing packet; and (ii) the claimed replacement of data stored in the received packet with another data to be addressed to a downstream node in accordance with checking result of the packet identifier.

Perlman (US 5, 398, 242) does not disclose or suggest a node that replaces data stored in a writing packet with another data to be addressed to a downstream node. Rather, Perlman discloses addition of information of each path (route) to an explorer message.

Thus, a prima facie case of obviousness based upon Limb, Tateyama and Perlman cannot be established, because Limb, Tateyama and Perlman are all silent on the claimed **"determining whether data stored in the data portion of the write packet can be replaced with another data stored in the second node and to be addressed to the third node,"** thus failing to disclose, or provide any suggestion or motivation to one skilled in the art to be modified to achieve, the claimed:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising:

transferring a write packet from a first node to a second node, when a plurality of nodes, including the first node, the second node and a third node, connect by a bus but not connected in a ring form and the plurality of nodes constitute an IEEE 1394 topology, **the write packet having an identifier storing identification information which indicates addressee of data stored in data portion of the write packet or indicates that the data portion of the write packet includes a blank data portion;**

determining at a link layer processor of the second node whether a received packet is the write packet;

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checking at an identification circuit of the second node the identification information of the identifier of the received write packet and determining whether data stored in the data portion of the write packet can be replaced with another data stored in the second node and to be addressed to the third node.

storing data addressed to the third node and to be written in a data portion of a packet, in the data portion of the write packet at the second node in accordance with the checking result, wherein said storing data includes replacing the data stored in the data portion of the write packet with said another data; and

transferring the write packet from the second node to the third node.

Therefore independent claims 1, 10, 12, 13, 16, 23, and 24 are patentable over the references. Withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,  
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: November 20, 2006

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Date: November 20, 2006